

Serial No.: 09/843,909
Atty. Docket No.: P66616US0

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 18, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and Applicants note with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 5, amended claims 1-3 and 6-14, and added claims 15-21. Claims 1-3 and 6-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, 20 and 21 are independent.

The Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, claim 14 has been amended so as to be in conformity with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,377,640 to Trans. Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner rejected claim 3 as being unpatentable over Trans in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,133 to Sommer et al. The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 5-11 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but stated that claims 2 and 5-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner further stated that claim 14

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would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have herein amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 5. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in claim 5. Claims 2, 3 and 6-13 are also in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein.

Claim 14 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. While some limitations have been deleted from claim 14, amended claim 14 corresponds with the subject matter of claim 2 written in independent form and therefore is in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 14, as further detailed in the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

New claims 15-19 are in condition for allowance as claims properly dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein.

New independent claims 20 and 21 represent the subject matter of claims 10 and 11, respectively, rewritten in independent

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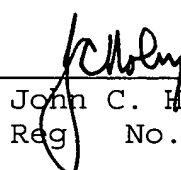
form to each include the limitations of original claim 1, and therefore new claims 20 and 21 are in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in claims 10 and 11.

With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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